of UNAIDS has expressed his concern about the misuse of "Spasmoproxyvon" in North Eastern States.The product is supposed to be swallowed as a capsule but the misuse occurs when persons empty the contents of the capsule, dilute it and inject the product.

(b) The issue of alleged misuse of Proxyvon or similar drug formulations has been taken up with all the State Drug Controllers of North-East States in order to insure strict enforcement under the provision of drugs and Cosmetic Rules, as the drug is under schedule "H" (Prescription Drug) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules framed thereunder.

Killer germ 'Leptospirosis'

3466. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the deluge in monsoon this year in Mumbai and other parts of the Maharashtra, the State, especially Mumbai, faced an epidemic of leptospirosis;

(b) if so, the number of reported leptospirosis cases in and around Mumbai during August and September this year;

(c) the Central aid, if any, sought and given to prevent the epidemic from spreading and to control the situation;

(d) whether the said epidemic also spread in other parts of country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the information available from the State Government, 1826 leptospirosis cases were reported in and around Mumbai upto the end of September this year.

(c) A central team consisting of Microbiologists and Public Health specialists assisted the State Health authorities in investigation, prevention and control of outbreak of various communicable diseases, including leptospirosis. A control room was established in Mumbai to monitor and assess the situation. Laboratory support and diagnostic facilities, including test kits for leptospirosis were provided to the State Government.

(d) and (e) An outbreak of leptospirosis with 352 cases was also reported from South Gujarat.

Health melas in parliamentary constituencies

†3467. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 2003-04, his ministry had taken a decision to organise health melas in each Parliamentary constituency;

(b) if so, in how many Parliamentary Constituencies these health melas were organised in that particular year;

(c) whether any assessment of the utility of these melas was done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether this decision will be continued to be implemented in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Health Melas were organized in over 500 Parliamentary Constituencies in 2003-04.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi was assigned the work of making an assessment of the utility or these melas. The finding of the impact evaluation of the Health Melas revealed that such Melas have created awareness about the diseases, their cures and treatments. The Health Melas also created awareness about family planning methods i.e. spacing and permanent methods. The majority of the beneficiaries found the mela as useful and beneficial. 88% of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the services availed in the Health Mela.

(e) Continuance of the scheme would be dependant on necessary approval of the competent authority.

Rural Health mission

†3468. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of basic facilities to be extended to the rural areas under the Rural Health Mission;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.